Revision in price of natural gas

1601. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to hike the price on LPG as reported in the press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had already increased the price on natural gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal currently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) With effect from the midnight of 5th/6th June, 2006 the price of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas has been revised to Rs. 3,840/MSCM for general consumers and Rs. 2,304/MSCM for North-East consumers.

Enhancement of powers to OVL Board

1602. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has asked Government to enhance the powers of OVL Board to approve projects involving investment up to Rs. 1000 crore to take up projects abroad;

(b) whether OVL has been empowered to invest only up to Rs. 300 crore;

(c) whether Dr. V. Krishnamurthy's Committee made recommendation for enhancing the empowerment of OVL Board from the current limit of Rs. 300 crore from any single investment, to a level of at least Rs. 2,000 crore; and

(d) whether Government have agreed to this?